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The Family of
Levi and Kathryn Kiester



By
Jackson Ambrose Kiester

1928

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Historical Notes

Levi Kiester was the son of John and Suzan Kiester. He was born in 1818 in Pennsylvania. There he grew to manhood and married Kathryn Crumley. They were of German descent. Levi nor his father John could speak German, however, his mother and wife both spoke German.

From Pennsylvania they moved to Wooster, Ohio, but in 1843 they decided to push farther into the frontiers so they moved to a farm which is about one-half mile east of Stringtown Church and Cemetery in Noble County, Indiana. They arrived in the fall of the year and spent the first winter with a family by the name Ogdens who lived about six miles south. This was a two room log cabin and each family lived in a room. There were five in each family.

In the spring Levi bought eighty acres of land from the government and had only enough money left to buy a barrel of flour and an ax. The times were very hard but they were industrious, so they prospered. All the furniture was made from the native timber. A workshop was made in the cabin and there he made the coffin when someone died. Here he also made furniture for other settlers who in exchange grubbed for him.

There were more Indians than white people and at one time they could count six wigwams from their cabin door.

In April 1898, Levi died. In 1910 Kathryn died. They are buried in the Stringtown Cemetery near their old home place. Their old family Bible is now in possession of Emma Jackson of Legioner, Indiana.

Recd Nov 8-1977

Key

I.

A.

1.

a.

Explanation of Key

The Roman numerals "I" represent Levi and Kathryn's children or the first generation. The capital letter "A" represents the second, the Arabic numerals "1" the third, and small letters "a" the fourth generation. As far as known the names are in order of birth. Each generation is indented from the previous one. The address and occupation of each is given so far as known.

Author's Note

There no doubt will be many mistakes in this record, but no attempt has been made to present this paper in details as a family record. The descendants are widely scattered and the information has been gather from relatives, and often their information was not complete.

Two years have been spent and changes have been made and new names added since the beginning. If you find mistakes please correct them and tell others so that they may do the same.

I wish to thank all who contributed their information and especially to Aunt Mary Kalb for help in getting old notes which would otherwise have been lost.

JACKSON KIESTER

Record

LEVI AND KATHRYN KIESTER

I. Nancy Jane Kiester, died at age of 17 or 18.

II. John Kiester married Barbra Moore. They lived on a farm a little east of Stringtown Church, Noble County, Indiana. Barbra died in 1920. They had eleven children.

A. Perry Kiester died in infancy.

B. Anna Kiester was married to Edwin Prickett. He was a school teacher at Albion, Indiana, for many years. had two children.

1. Lea Prickett was married to James Edwards. He works with Standard Oil Co., Columbia City, Indiana.

2. Fred Prickett. He teaches high school at Rome City, Indiana.

C. Nancy Kiester was married to Charles Bender. He farmed near Kemmel, Indiana. Nancy died in 1917. There were three children.

1. Ernil Bender was married to Dr. Homer Hiatt and they live at Beecher, Illinois. They had two children.

a. Richard.

b. Child dead.

2. Cecil Bender was married to Ralph Denny. He is a high school teacher at Brownstown, Indiana. They have four children.

a. June.

b. Dale.

c. Mary Jane.

d. Charles.

e. Harry Lee (dead).

3. Carl Bender married Helen Blue. They live at Wolf Lake and are in the grocery business. Their children are:

a. Joan.

b. Nancy.

- D. J. Thomas Kiester married Nona Myers. They live on the old Levi Kiester farm in Noble County. Their address is Kimmel, Indiana. They have five children.

1. Merle Kiester married Lea Reed. They live near Kimmel, Indiana. They have two children.

a. Betty Jane.

b. Richard.

2. Nita Kiester was married to Chester Martin. They live at

Etna, Indiana, and are in live stock and butcher business.

a. Glen.

3. Neil Kiester. Works on railroad and is at home when not working.

4. Luella Kiester is in Business College in South Bend, Indiana.

5. Max Kiester at home.

E. George Kiester married Burth Kuester. They live in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

1. Ralph Kiester married Martha Diem. He works at the General Electric Company in Fort Wayne.

2. Edith Kiester was married to Ethan Stagland. He farms at Marion, Indiana.

a. Roger.

b. Roy.

3. John Kiester married Esther Hurrah. They live in Fort Wayne and he works for the Wabash railroad.

a. Thomas.

b. William.

c. Irene.

d. George.

F. Hanna Kiester married Claud Kimmel. They live on a farm near Kimmel, Ind.

1. Anna May Kimmel.
2. Allen Kimmel.

G. Charlotte Kiester married Carl Surface. He is a farmer and his P. O. is Kimmel, Indiana. They have five children.

1. Claude Surface. *See ...*
2. Laurabelle Surface.
3. Lucille Surface. *See ...*
4. Barbra Surface. *See ...*
5. John Surface.

H. Ruth Kiester was married to Melvin Beers. He carries mail out of Kimmel, Indiana.

1. Infant died. *Beers*
2. Russell Beers taken to raise.
3. Annabelle Beers (adopted). *Beers*

I. Martha Kiester was married to Charles Butts. He farms near Kimmel, Ind.

1. Mildred Butts was married to Harold Guard. They farm northeast of Legionier. *Beers*
2. Thomas Butts, died. *Beers*

J. Mary Kiester was married to Charles Beers. They farm near Kimmel, Ind.

1. Lawrence Beers. *Beers*

Wm. Beers
Charles

K. Levi M. Kiester married Blanche Hindman. They live on a farm near Kimmel, Ind.

1. Juanita Kiester.

2. Eunice Kiester.

III. Mary Kiester was married to Abraham Kalb. They lived near Middlebury, Ind. Abraham died in 1923. They had been married fifty-eight years. Mary is now with John McKibbens at Middlebury. She is 86 years old. They had six children.

A. Kate Alice Kalb was married to John McKibben. They live in Middlebury, Ind. They have three children.

1. Fay McKibben was adopted. She married Harry Chidester.

a. Sidney.

b. Nellie.

2. Jennie McKibben was married to William Rogers. They have three children. Carpenter in Elkhart.

a. Neva.

b. Noma.

c. Richard.

3. Abraham McKibben married Reta Lamer. Carpenter in South Bend.

a. Mary K.

b. Victor G.

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- B. Emma Delia Kalb died in infancy.
- C. Harry Kalb married Minnie Miller. They live near Middlebury, Ind. He is a farmer. They have six children.
 - 1. Ruby Kalb.
 - 2. Orlie, died.
 - 3. Ocie Kalb married Elmer Hostetter. They farm near Middlebury.
 - a. Mildred.
 - b. Orlie.
 - 4. Ollie Kalb married to Paul Yoder and they have two children.
 - a. Eloise.
 - b. Paul D.
 - 5. Ollin Kalb married Vera Workman. They live at Forest Grove, Indiana, and he is in the oil business.
 - a. Donald.
 - 6. Oscar Kalb married Vera Sheets. He is a shop man in Goshen.
 - a. William, Jr.
 - 7. Opal Kalb was married to Wm. Miller. He is a shopman in Goshen, Indiana.
 - 8. Otis Kalb.
 - 9. Othmey Kalb.

10. Orville Kalb.

11. Oneta Kalb.

12. Oma Kalb.

D. Lillian Kalb died small.

E. Levi Kalb married Emma Haines. He is a merchant in Middlebury.

✓ 1. Hazel Kalb was married to Jessie Ott.

2. Dallas Kalb married Lois Rex.

3. Mabel Kalb was married to Paul Stover.

F. Luella Kalb died in infancy.

IV. Miles Kiester married Mary Gilbert. Miles died at about thirty years of age. They had three children.

A. Albert Kiester died young.

B. Frank Kiester. Have no information about him, only that he is dead, and don't know where that came from.

C. Emma Kiester, no information about her.

V. Ambrose Kiester married Mary Ellen Blain and they lived on a farm near New Lake in Troy Township, Whitley County, Indiana. Ambrose died in 1915. To them ten children were born.

A. Perry B. Kiester married Della Grant. They reared a family on a farm in

Whitley County, Indiana. Della died in 1927. They had eight children.

1. Bessie Kiester was married to Jay Johnson. To them three children were born. Later she married Ralph Elder. They live on a farm in Whitley County, Indiana.

- a. Kathryn is in business in Fort Wayne, Ind.

- b. Evelyn.

- c. Perry.

2. Herbert Kiester married Clara Herichide. He is a plumber contractor in Fort Wayne.

- a. William.

- b. Robert.

- c. Donald.

- d. Ralph.

3. Cecil Kiester was married to George Fatz. He is a merchant in Florida.

- a. Jack.

- b. Martha Dell.

4. Carl Kiester married Goldie W. O. W.. He is in the oil business at Tulsa, Oklahoma.

5. Ralph Kiester married Pearl Ross. He is a plumber in Philadelphia. He was in the Navy several years.

- a. Della May, died.
- b. Thelma.
- c. Faye.
- d. Mabel.
- e. June.

6. Guy Kiester works on the farm. Whitley County, Indiana.

7. Dewitt Kiester married Rose
———. He works in the oil fields at Tulsa, Okla.

- a. Evelyn Rose.
- b. Carl.

8. Mary Ellen Kiester died in infancy.

B. Armindia Kiester married Glenwood Groves. He is a farmer in Troy Township, Whitley County, Indiana. His P. O. is Larwill.

1. Gail Groves married Miriam Gorman. He is a farmer near Parkston, South Dakota.

- a. Mary Ellen.
- b. Gail L.
- c. Gorman.
- d. Glenwood.

2. Pauline Groves was married to Fred Phifer. He is in garage business at McCuscar, N. D.

- a. Frederick.

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3. John Groves married Alice Walsh. He is farming with his father at Larwill, Indiana.

a. James.

b. Patrick.

c. Pricilla died in infancy.

4. Ella Groves was married to Jack Turner. He is in garage business at Long Beach, California.

5. Miriam Groves teaches school near the home of her father.

C. Levi W. Kiester married Nora Bowlby. They live on the old Ambrose Kiester farm in Whitley County, Indiana. Their address is Columbia City, Indiana. To them three children were born.

1. Blanche Kiester died at the age of 23 of the flu.

2. Homer L. Kiester married Marie Haas. He died of appendicitis in 1920.

3. Jackson Ambrose Kiester married Ethel Hill. He is a high school teacher at Calumet City, Illinois.

a. Kitty Blanche.

D. James Kiester married Ethel Hyre. He is in the Oil business at Tulsa, Oklahoma. They have two children.

1. Deloris Helen Kiester.
 2. Maxine H. Kiester.
- E. Infant died.
- F. Maude Kiester was married to William Strause. They operate a grocery store at Waynedale, Ind. They have four children.
1. William Henry Strause married _____ He trucks in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.
 - a. _____.
 2. John Carl Strause.
 3. Thomas L. Strause.
 4. Mary Jane Strause.
- G. Ella Kiester was married to Clarence Malone. To them two children were born. He died about 1912 or 1913. She later married Carl Kaufman. He works with the General Electric Co., Fort Wayne, Indiana. His address is Columbia City, Indiana.
1. D. Dwight Malone is in California.
 2. Eugene A. Malone married Isabelle Barnes. He works in a Dry Goods Store in Columbia City, Indiana.
 - a. Billy Eugene.

H. Chloe Kiester was married to Harper Waugh. They live on a farm near Churubusco, Indiana.

1. Harry Lee Waugh.
2. James Waugh.
3. Robert Waugh.
4. Infant dead.
5. Elizabeth Waugh.

I. Flossie Kiester died in infancy.

J. Dwight Kiester married Chloe Jones. He works at the oil business, Tulsa, Oklahoma. They have three children.

1. Kenneth Kiester.
2. Ambrose Kiester.
3. Betty Lois Kiester.

VI. Goren Kiester died at the age of four years.

VII. Kathryn Kiester died at the age of two years.

VIII. Anna Kiester died at the age of four months.

IX. Emma Kiester was married to Thomas Jackson. They live at Legonier, Indiana. They have the old family Bible.

A. Melvin Jackson married Ida Kelley. Melvin died at the age of 54. They had three children.

1. Victor Jackson married Carty Phillis. Do not know his address.

- a. Clifford.
- b. Victor, Jr.
- c. Jack.
- d. Frank.

2. Mary Jackson married Frank Field. He is a farmer at _____, Mich.

- a. One child.

B. Jennie Jackson married Clarence Denning. He is mayor of Legonier.

- 1. Emma Jean Denning was adopted.

C. Wallace Jackson married Verne Rice. She is dead. Later he married Lillian Fletcher.

- 1. Tom Jackson, adopted.

X. George Kiester married Ivy Francis Earle. They live on a farm near the old Kiester home in Noble County. They had ten children.

A. Edith Kiester married Ralph Lung. He is a carpenter at Cromwell, Ind.

- 1. Olga Lung, adopted.
- 2. Meredith Mullen was raised by Lungs and is in college studying Accountancy.

B. Fannie Kiester married to Harry Benner. He is a stock buyer at Wolf Lake, Indiana. They had three children to die in infancy.

C. Birdie Kiester died in infancy.

D. Forrest Kiester married Ruby Miller. ✓
He is in the insurance business in
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

E. Alice Kiester married to Joe Reed. ✓
They farm at Millersburg, Indiana.

1. George Reed.

F. John Kiester married Jennie Braden.
John is dead.

1. John G. Kiester.

G. Harley Kiester, dead.

H. Chloe Kiester, dead.

I. Thelma Kiester was married to Clarence Piper. He is a farmer near Kimmel, Indiana.

1. Francis Jane Piper.

J. Anna Isabelle Kiester died in infancy.

XI. Charles Kiester married Elizabeth Herman. She is dead and as far as known nothing has been heard of him since 1920. Charles was married the second time and had one child. There are five children by his first wife.

A. Kathryn Kiester married Fred Donn. He works in Elkhart, Indiana.

1. Herman Donn.

2. Bonnie Donn was married to William Milkus. He works in Elkhart, Indiana.

B. Fred Kiester married Mable Myers. He has a garage and filling station in Legionier, Indiana.

1. Eva Kiester.
2. Verna Kiester.
3. Dale Kiester.

C. Rose Kiester married to man by name of Schulbridge. Don't know whether they have any children or not.

D. Levi Kiester married Nora Lynch. He works for the Studebaker Company, South Bend, Indiana.

1. John P. Kiester.

E. Bonnie Kiester married John Ramsey. They live in California.

1. Jane Ramsey.

XII. Edwin Kiester married Nevada Harper and they had one child. He later married Addie Casteler and then Mamie Goldbreath. He lives at Angola, Indiana.

A. Bula Kiester was married to J. Brown, address unknown.

1. Nevada Brown.
2. Sarah Brown.
3. Jay Brown.
4. }
5. } Names Unknown.
6. }

B. Edwin Lee Kiester.

Counting those who married into the family at this time there are three hundred and three descendants. They are:

First generation or children.....	19
Second generation or grandchildren.....	84
Third generation or great grandchildren.....	131
Fourth generation or great, great grandchildren	69

Neal & Bernice Kiester
R.R. 1 Kinsale, Ind.

They now have in their possession the Kiester Family Bible, mentioned on page 17, in the book "The Family of Levi & Kathryn Kiester" written by Jackson Ambrose Kiester. The book was given to them by

Emma Jean Renning who is mentioned on Page 18 same book.

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